



Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition

Promoting the bicycle for everyday use

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To Members of the Joint Policy Committee:

The Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition represents the interests of bicyclists in Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties. Land use policies are very important to us, as they have major impacts on the safety, utility, and attractiveness of bicycling as a transportation alternative. Although the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition supports the basic premises of the MTC and Joint Policy Committee's steps toward connecting land use to transit, we are concerned that the proposed policy will not be effective. We urge you to strengthen the policy by adopting the Livable Communities Platform, which will help ensure good land use around transit stations.

The policy as currently proposed calls for a certain amount of housing and jobs along transit corridors as a measure for growth. Furthermore, the current proposal does not address the need for housing affordable to families earning low incomes, the very people who need housing most and are most likely to use public transit or bicycles as their means of transportation.

We urge you to adopt the following Livable Communities Platform as part of a Regional Transit Oriented Development Policy. Before MTC funds transit expansion projects, cities should have to:

- * Plan for a high threshold of housing along corridors, separate from a jobs threshold.
- * Promote affordable housing in station areas.
- * Create station area plans that include:
 - * studies that analyze minimizing the space dedicated to parking,
 - * bicycle and pedestrian plans for safe routes to and within station areas, and
 - * blocks no more than 500 feet in length to ensure walkability.

The Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition is eager to support a policy linking transportation funds to transit-supportive land use. We urge you to include policy standards that will move the Bay Area towards a more sustainable future where transit is easily accessible by bicycle and where stations are surrounded by areas where people will want to live, work, and play.

Sincerely,

Greg McPheeters